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Auschwitz concentration camp entrance

## STOLEN AUSCHWITZ SIGN RECOVERED

A metal sign was stolen in Poland in the early hours of the morning on 18th December. The sign is such an important part of history that the Polish government declared it a national priority to find it and catch the thieves. Two days later Polish police arrested five men after the sign was found at a house belonging to one of them, in northern Poland.

The sign hangs over the entrance to Auschwitz concentration camp. The words on the sign read 'Arbeit macht Frei'. In German, this means 'Work sets you free'.

The Auschwitz complex of concentration camps was set up by the Nazis in Poland at the beginning of the Second World War (1939 – 1945). At first the camp was used to hold Polish soldiers captured during the fighting. Polish prisoners in the camp were ordered to make the metal sign.

Later, Nazi forces began capturing and sending people to Auschwitz to be killed. Over one million people, most of them Jews, were murdered there. The wording on the sign suggested prisoners who worked hard at the camp would be set free. This was a lie.

Hundreds of thousands of Jewish people were transported to Auschwitz by train between 1940 and 1944. At any one time about 35,000 people were held in the camp. Most were killed in gas chambers, sometimes as many as 20,000 people in one day. Their bodies were then burned.

The Auschwitz sign and its words have become a symbol of the Holocaust. The Holocaust is the name given to the mass murder of over six million Jews by the Nazis during the Second World War.

The camp is now a museum. It includes thousands of suitcases, shoes and items taken away from the prisoners

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when they arrived. Many German and Polish schools include a visit to Auschwitz as part of their curriculum.

The sign is five metres (16 feet) long. It is made of iron and weighs 40 kilograms (88 pounds). The thieves used a ladder to climb up and unscrew one end. The other end had been pulled off. The thieves carried the sign over 300 metres (985 feet) to a gap they had made in the surrounding wall.

Officials at the camp replaced the sign immediately with a replica until the real sign could be found. The replica was made several years ago when the original sign was taken down to be repaired.



Police investigating the theft knew the thieves had cut the sign up into three separate pieces. This is because the 'I' from the word 'Frei' was left behind. The police thought this had been done so the sign would fit in the thieves' car. The police also believed the thieves must have acted very quickly. They had avoided being filmed by security cameras or seen by guards.

Lech Kaczyński, the president of Poland, asked everyone to help the police find the sign and catch the thieves. Donald Tusk, the prime minister of Poland, and the president of Israel, Shimon Peres, were attending an international meeting in Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark. They held a separate meeting to discuss what had

happened. Israel regards Auschwitz as a national memorial.

At first it was thought neo-Nazis had stolen the sign. Neo-Nazi is a term used to describe people today who still have the same beliefs as Adolf Hitler, the leader of Nazi Germany at the time of the Second World War.

Museum officials offered a reward of 115,000 zloty (£25,000) for information about the theft. The police received many telephone calls on a special line they had set up. One of these calls led to the arrest of the five men and to the sign being found.

The police brought some of the men back to Auschwitz to demonstrate how they had stolen the sign. Later it was discovered that the security guards had not been doing their job correctly and some of the security cameras were not working. This had made it much easier for the thieves to steal the sign.

The police are still questioning the people who were arrested. They are being held at Kraków, the nearest large city to Auschwitz. Police have said none of the men is a member of any neo-Nazi groups.

Some Polish newspapers reported that a person from Sweden had arranged the theft. They said he had agreed to pay the men as much as €30,000 (£27,000) each for stealing the sign and delivering it to him.

If the five men are found guilty of the theft they could be sent to prison for ten years.

Russian soldiers **liberated** the Auschwitz camp on 27th January 1945. Museum officials want the police to return the sign to them so it can be repaired and put back up in time for the 65th anniversary of this event. ■

## LAST KON-TIKI CREW MEMBER DIES

Knut Haugland died on 25th December, aged 92, in Oslo, the capital of Norway. Mr Haugland was the last of the six people who took part in a famous expedition in 1947, aboard a raft called Kon-Tiki.

The expedition leader was Thor Heyerdahl. Mr Heyerdahl was a Norwegian anthropologist – a person who studies humans and their behaviour. He believed the people who live in Polynesia, a series of small islands in the Central and South Pacific Ocean, had originally come from South America hundreds and possibly thousands of years ago. If they had done so, it would mean they must have sailed across the Pacific Ocean in **primitive** boats.



Kon-Tiki

Many experts thought this would have been impossible. Mr Heyerdahl decided to prove them wrong by building his own boat and sailing it from South America to some of the Polynesian islands.

Six crew members were selected, including Mr Haugland. Mr Heyerdahl's team members built their own boat. It was made out of things that would have been available to the indigenous people who lived in South America near the Pacific Ocean, hundreds of years ago. This included balsa wood, which is very soft and light.

The boat was designed as a raft with a sail. Its design came from a

## NewsCAST

**BURNING GOAT** — In some parts of Sweden, a popular Christmas decoration is a goat made of straw. Each year the city of Gävle puts up a 12-metre (39 foot) tall straw goat in a public square. Yet town officials say burning down the city's goat has become almost as much of a tradition as putting it up. Each year city officials try to make sure the goat is not set on fire. Despite all their efforts the goat was burned down again this year. This is thought to have been the 24th time this has happened.

few old drawings. These had been made by Spanish explorers who were the first Europeans to travel to the Pacific coast of South America, in the early 1500s.

Mr Heyerdahl named his raft Kon-Tiki, an old name for the Inca sun god Virachocha. The Inca Empire included parts of what are now Chile, Peru, Ecuador, and Bolivia. Historians believe the Inca civilisation lasted for about 300 years from around 1200 until the Spanish finally destroyed it in 1533.

Kon-Tiki set off from Peru in April 1947. The six crew members had only very basic equipment. Water was stored in bamboo poles and the crew caught fish for food. One of the few modern pieces of equipment taken on the trip was a small radio. It was operated by Mr Haugland.

The raft travelled about seven thousand kilometres (4,300 miles) in 101 days. It then became stuck on a reef. People from a nearby island rescued the crew members in canoes and they all arrived back in Norway safely.

Mr Heyerdahl claimed his expedition proved that people living

in Polynesia could have originally travelled there from South America in boats.

During the Second World War (1939 – 1945) Nazi forces occupied large parts of Norway. Mr Haugland was a member of the Norwegian resistance. This was a small secret group of people who continued to fight even though the country had been taken over by enemy forces. Mr Haugland was awarded several medals for bravery by the governments of Norway, the UK and France for his actions during the war.

Thor Heyerdahl died in 2002. The Kon-Tiki raft is now kept in a museum in Oslo. ■

## PROTESTS IN IRAN

Many street protests have broken out in Iran. The demonstrators say they want more freedom. They also disagree with the way Iran's leaders are running the country.

The problems first started after a presidential election last June. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad won. He was elected president for another five years, having first become president in 2004.

Many of President Ahmadinejad's opponents voted for Mir-Hossein Mousavi. They claim President Ahmadinejad and his supporters cheated by miscounting the votes on purpose. The opposition to President Ahmadinejad is known as the 'green movement'. This is because they have used the colour green as a sign of their opposition to their country's government. Some people also call them 'the reformers'.

Iran has a religious head of state called the Supreme Leader. Since 1989 the Supreme Leader has been

Ali Khamenei. The Supreme Leader is not supposed to be involved in politics. Yet followers of the green movement claim he helped President Ahmadinejad win the election last June.

After the election there were many protests both for and against President Ahmadinejad. Police, soldiers and the Basiji, a type of religious police, stopped the anti-government demonstrations.

On 19th December, a popular religious leader in Iran died. His name was Hussein-Ali Montazeri. He had often criticised President Ahmadinejad and other Iranian government leaders. His funeral was held on 21st December, in the city of Qom. Thousands of supporters of the green movement attended it. After the funeral ended, they held large street protests.

The important Islamic festival of Ashura was on 27th December. On this day Shia Muslims **mourn** the death of a grandson of the Prophet Muhammad in the seventh century. Green movement leaders used the festival as an opportunity to hold more demonstrations in Tehran, the capital city.



Crowds at Hussein-Ali Montazeri's funeral

Some people say at least eight protesters were killed. At first the country's police chief denied any shots had been fired. One of those killed was the nephew of Mr Mousavi. Later, it was reported that his body had gone missing from the



hospital. Some suspected President Ahmadinejad's supporters had taken it so there could not be a funeral – an event that could be used as a reason to hold more demonstrations.

Iranian leaders have restricted what news reporters in Iran are allowed to say to people in other countries. Some reports say over 300 people have been arrested. These are thought to include many of the green movement's leaders.

Government officials insist the demonstrations have only been supported by a small number of people. They also say the protests are no threat to the Supreme Leader, President Ahmadinejad, or other government leaders. ■

## CLIMATE CHANGE MEETING ENDS

The United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference ended on 18th December.

Planning for the meeting had taken two years. It was held in a large conference centre in Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark. Many people hoped it would end with an agreement signed by all countries. Leaders were expected to agree on what they will do to slow down and eventually stop climate change. But this didn't happen, so many people were disappointed with the meeting's [outcome](#).

Before the meeting in Copenhagen began some people described it as the most important in human history. Over 190 countries sent people to attend. The meeting lasted for two weeks. By the last day, presidents and prime ministers from over 100 countries had arrived for the final discussions. This made the Copenhagen conference the biggest world leaders' meeting in history.

Scientists have been recording world temperatures for 160 years. These records show that, over this period, average world temperatures have risen by 0.7°C (1.25°F). Although a few disagree, most scientists believe this rise has been caused by an increase of greenhouse gas emissions in the Earth's atmosphere. These include carbon dioxide and methane. Much of the extra carbon dioxide, the scientists say, has come from burning fossil fuels – oil, gas and coal.

Developed countries are blamed for most of the greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere. These are countries that have been using and burning fossil fuels for around 160 years. Examples of developed countries are the USA and the UK. Developing countries – those that more recently started to burn oil, gas and coal – are also now putting more greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere. Examples of developing countries are China and India.



Conference centre in Copenhagen

The UN wants all countries to agree by how much each will reduce its own emissions and how this will be checked. The UN also wants developed countries to agree on an amount of money they will pay developing countries, especially those in Africa and Pacific island states. Developing countries will use the money to pay for ways to reduce emissions and for new technology that does not produce greenhouse gasses.

Some money would also be made available to protect forests in developing countries such as Brazil and Indonesia. Trees absorb carbon dioxide, so they help to reduce the amount of it in the atmosphere.

After days of talks, none of these agreements had been made. Some people blamed China, and others the USA. These two countries are the world's biggest producers of greenhouse gasses.

The UN's scientists say the average world temperature rise from 160 years ago must stay below 2°C (3.6°F) to stop climate change. China, the USA and some others agreed on a target of 2°C (3.6°F). Many African and Pacific island countries, where climate change is expected to have the biggest effect, were angry about this. They insist the temperature rise must be kept lower than 1.5°C (2.7°F).

Developed countries did not decide where all the money they are to pay developing countries will come from. China does not want people from non-Chinese organisations checking it has kept its promises about how much it has reduced its own emissions. And no agreement was made about the money to protect forests.

Many people hoped the meeting in Copenhagen would end with all countries being forced to reduce their emissions by certain amounts. This did not happen either.

Only a few people said the Copenhagen meeting was a success. They say at least all countries now understand the importance of the need for strict agreements to slow down global warming. What could not be agreed at the Copenhagen conference will be discussed again at meetings to be held in Germany and Mexico in 2010. ■

## DARK MATTER DETECTED?

by Dr Carol Ballard

On 17th December, scientists announced they had detected signs of dark matter. For a long time scientists have thought dark matter must exist. Yet nobody has been able to prove it.

The Earth is one of eight planets that orbit our Sun. Together, the Sun and planets make up our solar system. Our Sun is just one of more than 100 billion stars in our galaxy, the Milky Way. Galaxies and the gasses and other substances, such as dust, in the space around them are arranged in groups, or clusters.

The force of gravity holds each cluster together. Gravity attracts everything in space to everything else. For example, the Earth's gravity holds our Moon in its orbit. The Sun's gravity keeps the Earth and other planets in orbits around the Sun.

There are hot gasses in the spaces among the clusters of galaxies. Scientists can detect and measure these gasses. They know the gasses' temperatures and can calculate how much gas there is. From these results scientists can work out the total amount of matter in a part of space.

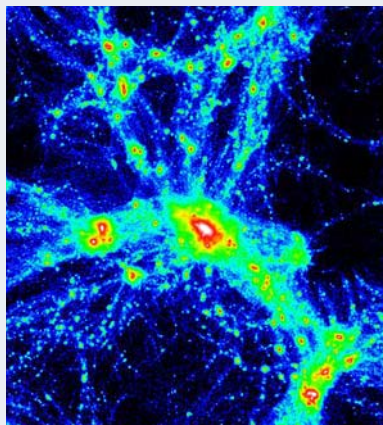
For more than 70 years, scientists have known there is a mystery here. The gravity produced by all the matter – galaxies and gasses – is not strong enough to hold all the clusters together. This means the things in the clusters should be flying away from each other. But they don't. So scientists say something else must be creating the extra gravity that keeps the clusters in place.

Scientists calculate there must be about five times more matter in the clusters of galaxies than can be detected. It is this 'invisible matter' that helps to produce enough gravitational force to hold everything together. So what could it be? Scientists have nicknamed it 'dark matter'.

Some theories suggest dark matter is made up of very tiny particles – much smaller than an atom. These particles are known as 'WIMPs' (Weakly Interactive Massive Particles).

WIMPs can pass straight through other matter without changing it or being changed by it. This makes it very difficult to detect them. But on very rare occasions a WIMP does collide with an atom. When this happens, it scatters particles and leaves a trace of energy. To prove the existence of WIMPs, scientists have been trying to detect these very tiny traces of energy.

A project called the Cryogenic Dark Matter Search (CDMS) has been set up in the USA to detect dark matter particles. This cannot be done in an ordinary laboratory, because interference – cosmic rays and background radiation – would hide any signs of WIMPs. So the scientists have set up their equipment in an iron mine that is no longer used, deep underground. The rocks above protect the equipment from interference.



Simulation of dark matter

The CDMS detectors used to search for WIMPs were made from the [elements](#) germanium and silicon. They were cooled to nearly absolute zero ( $-273^{\circ}\text{C}$ , or  $-459.67^{\circ}\text{F}$ ). If a particle hits one of the detectors, an electrical charge and a tiny amount of heat are produced. This can be measured. Scientists can tell whether WIMPs or ordinary particles caused the electric charge and heat. The recent announcement

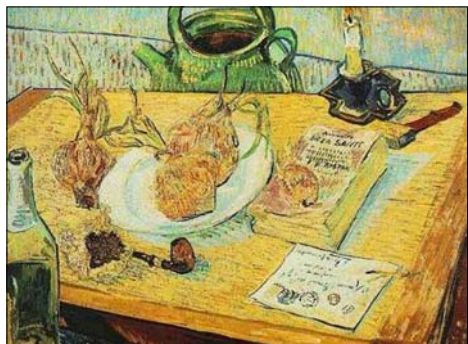
made by the CDMS team suggests WIMPs have hit the detectors.

The scientists have not yet proved it was WIMPs that caused the electric charge and heat. It's possible, they say, these may have been caused by background radiation. To check the results, the CDMS team and other scientists around the world are doing more experiments.

CDMS is now planning to build a larger detector. Another, called Xenon, has begun work under a range of mountains called the Alps, in Italy. A similar detector is at work in a deep underground cave in North Yorkshire, in the UK. If these experiments show the presence of WIMPs, scientists will have proved dark matter exists and a 70-year old puzzle will have been solved. ■

## VAN GOGH MYSTERY SOLVED?

An art expert claims he has solved a mystery about one of the world's most famous artists. He believes he has the answer to why Vincent van Gogh cut off part of his own ear. The art expert says the clue is in one of van Gogh's own paintings.



Vincent van Gogh's 'Drawing Board With Onions' showing the letter to his mother

Vincent van Gogh (1853 – 1890) was a Dutch artist. Although now his paintings are very valuable, during his lifetime van Gogh was not well-known. He suffered from anxiety and mental health problems. Today art experts say his work had a huge influence on many famous artists and even helped to shape how modern art developed.

Martin Bailey is an art expert who has written a book on van Gogh. He believes the clue to why van Gogh cut off part of his ear appears in a painting called 'Drawing Board With Onions'. On the board in the painting, van Gogh has painted a letter. It has a postmark on it. Mr Bailey says the postmark shows the letter was sent from close to where van Gogh's brother Theo lived in Paris, the capital of France. Van Gogh finished the painting about one month after he cut his ear.

Van Gogh only ever sold one painting in his lifetime. It's thought he swapped some for food and other things. But, says Mr Bailey,

van Gogh mostly relied on his brother for money and help with his mental problems.

Every month Theo would send a letter containing some money to his brother Vincent. He then used the money to live on. One day, Mr Bailey says, Theo also sent a letter to their mother. In it, he asked for her permission to marry his girlfriend. Mr Bailey believes this is the letter in the painting.

Mr Bailey suspects van Gogh was worried Theo would no longer be able to help him and send money after getting married. This is why, he says, van Gogh cut his own ear. Mr Bailey thinks van Gogh deliberately included the letter in his painting to show this.

Other art experts disagree. Some believe van Gogh's ear was cut during a fight with a friend, another artist called Paul Gauguin. Others say his mental health problems led him to cut off part of his ear. A year and a half later, when he was 37 years old, van Gogh shot himself in the chest. He died a few days later.

## NEWSCAST

**GIVING GIFTS** — Giving gifts to others is a tradition for many people at Christmas. Last year Dennis Stevenson, who lives in Australia, wanted to give gifts to many people. So he decided to give away all his possessions. People were invited to come and take anything they wanted from him. Mr Stevenson said it made him feel so happy that he decided to do the same thing again this year. This time he invited other people to join in. They were asked to bring their things to his 'shop' so people could take them away as gifts as well.

Many people think van Gogh would be amazed to know how valuable his paintings now are and how important he is in the world of art. ■

## WORLD'S FASTEST TRAIN

On 26th December a new high-speed train made its first passenger journey. The train travelled from Wuhan, a large city in Central China, to Guangzhou, another big city in the south of the country. The train has been named the Harmony Express.

The Harmony Express has a top speed of 394 kilometres (245 miles) per hour. During its journey it travelled at an average speed of 350 kilometres (217.5 miles) per hour. This is faster than the Shinkansen trains in Japan and the TGV trains in France. The Chinese train completed the 1,100 kilometre (664 miles) journey in about three hours. This means it is now the fastest train in the world. Before this, the same train journey took over ten hours.

Work began on the new railway about four and a half years ago. The cost is estimated at around 117 billion yuan (£11 billion). The Chinese government operates the trains. It had help from three foreign companies to build them. These were Bombardier, an international company with its headquarters in Canada; Siemens, a German engineering company; and Alstom, a power generating company from France. The trains are the first high-speed trains completely built in China.

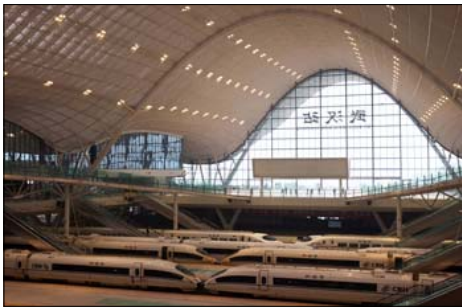
The railway track has been built through mountainous areas in the south of the country. There are many tunnels, and long sections of the tracks are elevated above the ground.



The new line has 18 stations. Some haven't been finished yet, but they will all be completed in 2010.

Fifty-six trains will run on the line each day – 28 travelling south and 28 going north. Some will stop at all stations and others will be non-stop.

Currently many people fly on passenger aircraft between Wuhan and Guangzhou. The airline companies will now have to compete for passengers with the train company. The airlines have begun to lower ticket prices to encourage travellers to keep taking the plane. Some people say the train tickets are expensive. Passengers can travel either first- or second-class. A first-class ticket is 780 yuan (£72) and a second-class ticket 490 yuan (£45).



Harmony Express trains at Wuhan station

The Chinese government plans to build another 18,000 kilometres (11,185 miles) of railway tracks for high-speed trains by 2012. ■

## ATTACK ON THE POPE

Pope Benedict the Sixteenth is the head of the Roman Catholic Church. On 24th December as he was going to lead a service in St Peter's [Basilica](#), in the Vatican, he was attacked. A young woman jumped over a security barrier and ran towards him. Before being stopped by guards she managed to grab part of the Pope's white [vestments](#) and pull him to the ground.

The Vatican is a separate city-state in Rome, the capital of Italy. It is the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church. The Pope was taking part in a Midnight Mass church service. Traditionally, many Christian churches hold a Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve – the day before Christmas. For Christians, Christmas Day is one of the most important days in the year. Followers of the Christian religion believe Jesus Christ was born on this day over 2,000 years ago.

After the Pope, who is 82 years old, was pulled to the ground, other people taking part in the [procession](#) helped him to stand up. He was unhurt but shaken by the attack. However, the woman who jumped over the barrier injured another person. An elderly Catholic leader from France, who was walking close to the Pope, fell down. He broke his hip.

The young woman was arrested. She has [dual](#) nationality – Italian and Swiss – and lives in Switzerland. It's thought she travelled to Rome specially to go to the Midnight Mass. Later officials said she was known to have some mental health problems and had been taken to a special hospital. Officials also admitted she had tried to do a similar thing last year. Then guards had managed to stop her from climbing over the barriers.

On 25th December it is traditional for the Pope to make a speech to thousands of people who crowd into St Peter's Square. He stands on a balcony high above them. The Pope was well enough to appear on the balcony the day after the attack. In his speech he gave a Christmas blessing in 65 different languages. He did not mention the attack.

People who want to go to the Midnight Mass in St Peter's Basilica

on Christmas Eve have to apply for tickets. Many people were surprised the woman who attacked the Pope had been allowed a ticket, especially as she had caused a similar problem 12 months ago.



Pope Benedict giving his Christmas Day message to people in St Peter's Square

Some people think the security around the Pope will now be made stronger. Yet a Vatican official said this would be difficult, as Pope Benedict the Sixteenth understands that people want to see and be near him. He says the Pope believes it is necessary for him to be close to the crowds of people who visit the Vatican every year. ■

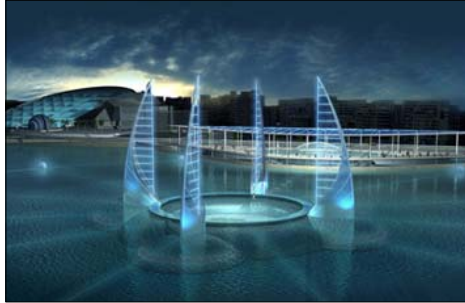
## ANCIENT ALEXANDRIA

An archaeological discovery was revealed at Alexandria, in Egypt, on December 17th. A large stone block was raised out of the sea using a crane. The block is believed to be part of the entrance to a temple that dates to the time when Egypt was ruled by Queen Cleopatra.

Alexander the Great, a famous military leader, founded Alexandria. The city was named after him. Alexander led his Greek armies into Persia, Egypt, and as far as India. He created one of the largest empires in ancient history. Alexander died in 323BC when he was 32.

After Alexander's death his empire was split up between several of his generals. One, called Ptolemy,

became the ruler of Egypt. He and his descendents then ruled the country for almost 300 years. This part of Egyptian history is known as the Hellenistic period. The word Hellenistic describes something to do with the culture of Ancient Greece.



Artist's impression of the future Alexandria undersea museum

Queen Cleopatra (Cleopatra the seventh) was a direct descendent of Ptolemy. She was Pharaoh of Egypt from 51BC to 30BC. During this time the leaders of the Roman army wanted to take over Egypt.

Cleopatra married a Roman general called Mark Antony. As rulers of Egypt, Antony and Cleopatra became involved in a war against the Roman Empire. They lost. Most historians agree both Mark Antony and Cleopatra committed suicide. Stories about Cleopatra say she allowed herself to be bitten by a poisonous snake when she heard Mark Antony was dead. Cleopatra was the last Hellenistic ruler of Egypt. After her death the country was taken over by the Romans.

During Egypt's Hellenistic period Alexandria became an important city. Historians believe parts of the city and nearby towns disappeared under the sea in the fourth century because of earthquakes, floods and erosion.

In 1996 a French marine archaeologist discovered the remains of ancient buildings under the sea just off the coast near Alexandria. The stone raised on 17th December is

thought to have been part of a temple built near Cleopatra's palace. It is 2.25 metres (7.4 feet) long. The block weighs nine tonnes and has Ancient Egyptian and Hellenistic markings on it.

The block was dragged along the seabed for three days to move it closer to the harbour's edge. It was then lifted from the sea by a crane and put onto a truck.

Egyptian officials are hoping to build a museum under the sea at Alexandria. People will be able to walk along underwater tunnels and see the ruins of Hellenistic Alexandria. The museum may even have a submarine that runs on rails. If the undersea museum is built, it is expected that the stone block will be used as part of the entrance. ■

## AIRCRAFT BOMB ATTEMPT

On 25th December a 23-year-old man from Nigeria attempted to set off a type of bomb on a passenger plane. The plane was travelling from Amsterdam, the capital of The Netherlands, to Detroit, in the USA. There were 279 passengers and 11 crew members on the plane.



A330 plane

A small explosion occurred. It caused some of the man's clothes and the side of the plane to catch on fire. Other passengers pulled the man from his seat and put out the flames. The man was held down and

handed over to the police as soon as the plane landed. One of his legs was badly burned.

The A330 plane belongs to Northwest Airlines, an American company. It is currently merging with another American airline company called Delta. So although it was a Northwest flight the plane had the Delta name on it. The bomb incident happened after the plane had crossed the Atlantic Ocean and was flying over the USA.

Some people were surprised the man had managed to smuggle explosives onto the plane. All passengers have to pass strict security checks before travelling by air. However, some experts said the man was carrying a special type of explosive material that can be difficult to detect. It had been sewn into his underwear. The man also had a syringe with a liquid in it. The experts say the man planned to mix the liquid with the explosive to cause an explosion.

It's thought the Nigerian man, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, travelled from Lagos, the capital of Nigeria, to Amsterdam. He then changed planes to fly to the USA.

Officials said the man attended a university in London, the capital of the UK, between 2005 and 2008. His father is a wealthy Nigerian businessman who has been working in London. After Mr Abdulmutallab had been arrested in the USA the police in London searched his father's flat. One report said his father had warned American officials about his son. This was because he was worried about his son's extremist views.

Some people thought it was strange the man had a visa to enter the USA. Within the last few months officials from the UK are said to have turned down his application to return to London.



Investigators in the USA are now trying to find out where the man got the explosive materials. They also want to know who gave him instructions on how to set the bomb off, and how he managed to pass the airport security checks.

Some suspect he may have taken orders from al-Qaeda. This militant group carried out plane attacks on buildings in New York City and Washington DC, in the USA, in 2001. On 28th December an al-Qaeda group in Yemen claimed it planned the attack. Mr Abdulmutallab is known to have recently visited Yemen.

Experts on aircraft security think this may be the first time someone has tried to use this type of explosive on an aircraft. The leaders of many countries, including President Barack Obama of the USA, have ordered that security checks at airports will now have to be more **thorough**. ▣

## RHINOS GO HOME

On 20th December, four northern white rhinoceroses arrived in Kenya, in Africa, from the Czech Republic. The rhinos had been living in a zoo, and have now been transported to a nature reserve. People working to save this endangered species hope the rhinos will breed now they are no longer in captivity.

The rhinoceros is what's known as a mega-vertebrate. It is one of the largest mammals that exists. These giant creatures can weigh up to 3,600 kilograms (7,940 pounds) and be over four metres (13 feet) long. The rhinoceros is easily recognised by the large horn that sticks up from the front of its nose.

There are two types of white rhinoceros – northern and southern. All white rhinos are endangered, but

there are many fewer northern white rhinos. Experts believe the northern species is extinct in the wild. Only eight known individual rhinos are left. All are in captivity.



White rhino

The large horn on the rhino's **muzzle**, say conservationists, is the main reason the species is endangered. It is illegal to hunt and kill rhinoceroses. But some people still do so because they can make a lot of money selling rhino horn. Items made from the horns, such as ornaments and knife handles, are sold in some countries.

Experts say northern white rhinos in captivity are very unlikely to breed. So they hope transporting the two male and two female rhinos to a nature reserve in Africa will encourage them to do so.

Others, though, say it is too late to save the species. They believe it is so unlikely the rhinos will reproduce that it was wrong to risk transporting the huge animals so far.

The rhinos were put in specially-made wooden crates and flown to Nairobi, the capital of Kenya. They were then taken by truck to the nature reserve.

White rhinos are not really white. They have a wider, differently-shaped mouth from other rhinos. Some people believe the name comes from a Dutch word, 'wijd', which means wide.

The last time a northern white rhino was born was in 2000, in the

Czech Republic zoo. This nine-year-old female rhino was one of those sent to Kenya. ▣

## WAR MEMORIAL DESTROYED

On 19th December a large war memorial in Georgia was deliberately blown up. The memorial commemorated soldiers who died in the Second World War (1939 – 1945). The decision to **demolish** it was made by the Georgian leaders, including Mikheil Saakashvili, the president.

The structure, called the Glory Memorial, was in Kutaisi. It was built in the early 1980s. At that time Georgia was part of the Russian-led Soviet Union. Kutaisi is the second largest city in Georgia.

The Russian leader at the time of the Second World War was Joseph Stalin. He was born in Georgia. After Nazi Germany invaded Russia in 1941 thousands of Georgians joined the Russian-led Soviet army, known as the Red Army. It's thought about 700,000 Georgians fought in the Red Army. Over 300,000 were killed.



Glory Memorial being demolished

The Glory Memorial commemorated the Georgians who fought and died for the Soviet Union during the war. Merab Berdzenishvili, a sculptor from Georgia, designed the memorial. It was 46 metres (151 feet) high and made of concrete and bronze.

Soon after the Soviet Union collapsed in 1990 Georgia became independent. At the time there were many anti-Russian demonstrations and some protestors damaged the memorial. Since then the relationship between Georgia and Russia has been getting worse.

Mr Saakashvili has been Georgia's president since 2004. In 2008 he was re-elected president for another five years. Many people believe Mr Saakashvili wants Georgia to have closer links with European Union (EU) countries.

This has angered Russia. In 2008 the two countries fought a five-day war. Russian troops easily defeated the Georgians and occupied half of the country. After the war two regions of Georgia, Abkhazia and South Ossetia, said they had decided to leave Georgia and become independent. Russia has offered them support.

Russia accuses Mr Saakashvili of demolishing the memorial because it is linked to the Soviet Union. But President Saakashvili says he ordered it to be knocked down because he wants to build a new parliament building on the Glory Memorial site. One part of the memorial, a statue of a Georgian on a horse, has been moved to another part of Kutaisi.

The memorial was demolished by a large explosion. Pieces of concrete flying through the air hit a woman and an eight-year-old girl. Both were killed and another person was injured.

President Saakashvili said an investigation would be carried out to discover why the company that demolished the memorial did not follow the proper safety rules.

On 21st December over 2,000 people demonstrated in Kutaisi. They said the memorial should not

have been destroyed. They complained President Saakashvili's government should have asked the Georgian people whether they wanted to keep the memorial.

Vladimir Putin, the prime minister of Russia, said he was angry about what had happened in Kutaisi. He declared that a copy of the Glory Memorial will now be built in Moscow, the capital of Russia. ■

## SWEDISH CAR MAKERS

Saab and Volvo are two famous car companies in Sweden. In December decisions were made to close down Saab, and to sell the Volvo Car Company to a Chinese company called Geely.

Saab first began making cars in Sweden at the end of the 1940s. The engineers who worked on the first cars had previously designed aircraft. This meant features that are more common to aeroplanes, such as the rounded-shaped body parts, were included in the new car's design.

In 1990 General Motors (GM), a large American car company, bought 50% of Saab. Ten years later GM became the sole owner when it



bought the other half of the company. Recently GM has had difficulties and Saab has been losing money. GM's bosses announced they wanted to sell Saab and several other carmakers GM owns in Europe.

A Chinese car company called Beijing Automotive Industry Holdings Corporation (BAIC) agreed to

buy some of the Saab technology for US\$200 million (£125 million). Yet it did not want to buy the whole company. The GM bosses said as no other company wanted to buy Saab it would have to close down.

Volvo is well-known for the safety equipment it builds into its cars. The company has factories in 19 countries, including Sweden. Volvo is a larger company than Saab and sells many more cars. Yet it too has recently been losing money.

In 1999, Ford – another large American carmaker – bought Volvo. This cost Ford US\$6.5 billion (£4.07 billion). Now Ford also plans to reduce the number of carmakers it owns in countries other than the USA. On 23rd December, Ford said an agreement had been made to sell Volvo to a Chinese company called Geely for US\$2 billion (£1.25 billion). This is much less than the amount for which Ford bought Volvo ten years ago.



The Geely Company was set up in 1986. At first it made parts for refrigerators. In the 1990s it started to make parts for motorcycles. Now the company makes its own motorbikes. Geely made its first car in 1998. Last year it sold 300,000 cars in China, making it one of the country's biggest carmakers. Geely's officials say they decided to buy Volvo because they want to make cars in other countries.

In Sweden, about 3,500 people work for Saab. Volvo has around 24,000 workers in Sweden and 70,000 in other countries. While many people working for Saab are now expected to lose their jobs, the Swedish government hopes Geely will decide to keep all the Volvo factories in Sweden open. ■

## MANATEE DEATHS

Marine conservationists in the USA say 2009 has been the worst year ever for deaths of Florida manatees.

Manatees are large aquatic mammals. They are herbivores, and eat plants that grow in the water. Manatees live in rivers, shallow coastal waters, and estuaries around the state of Florida. Adults can be around three metres (ten feet) long when fully-grown and weigh up to 545 kilograms (1,200 pounds).

Manatees use their tails and two front flippers to swim through the water. Because they are mammals, they have to come to the surface to breathe air.

Manatees can migrate over quite long distances. But many stay in the waters around Florida because of the warm temperatures. Marine scientists say manatees can be quite

badly affected if the water they're in is too cold. They can lose fat, which is important for keeping them warm, and get infections more easily. These problems are called 'cold stress'. The manatee's ideal water habitat has a temperature above 20°C (68°F).

In the wild manatees can live as long as 60 years. Yet the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) reports that this year, up to 11th December, 419 manatees have been found dead. This is around 12.5% of the total population of Florida manatees.

One cause of manatee deaths is people in boats. They can collide with manatees in the water. The FWC said 94 of the manatee deaths were due to collisions with boats.

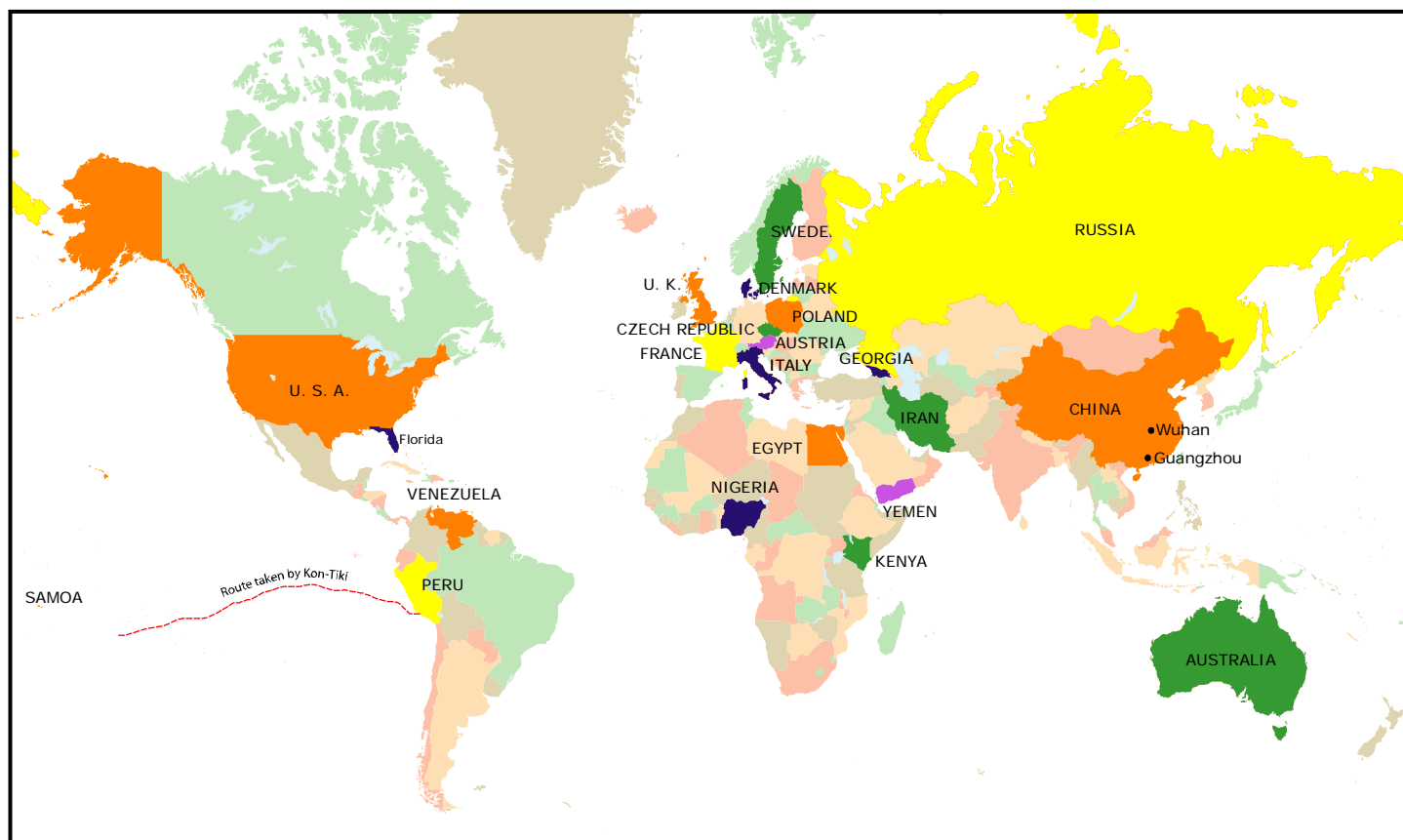
The FWC also says many more manatees have died from cold stress

than is usual. It believes the main reason for this is loss of habitat. When people want to develop land around the coast for homes and businesses, the FWC says, it affects the quality of the water habitat for manatees. Fewer safe warm water habitats are available.



Manatees

Development can also lead to water plants such as seagrasses, on which the manatees feed, being destroyed. So food is harder for them to find. If manatees have to travel away from their warm water habitats





to find food, they are more likely to suffer from cold stress.

Some human developments are helpful to manatees. For example, some factories use cold water as a way to cool down their equipment. The water becomes slightly warmer from being used in this way. Manatee populations often gather around where factories pump the warmer water back into rivers.

The FWC says it is important to protect warm water habitats in Florida to help to support the manatee population. ▣

## NEW NAME FOR ANGEL FALLS

The world's tallest waterfall could be given another name, after an announcement made on 20th December. The Venezuelan president, Hugo Chávez, declared he wants people to use a different name for the waterfall. Instead of Angel Falls, he said, it should be known as Kerepakupai merú.

The Falls are in a large area of jungle in southern Venezuela called the Gran Sabana. The river water falls from a height of 979 metres (3,212 feet). The Falls were named after an American aviator called Jimmie Angel. He saw them for the first time in 1933 when he flew over the area in a small plane.

Mr Angel flew back to the Falls a few years later and tried to land his plane on the flat-topped mountain. The plane became stuck in some mud. Mr Angel and his three passengers took 11 days to walk out of the jungle. News of what had happened to them was reported in many countries, and the waterfall became known as Angel Falls.



Angel Falls

A helicopter picked up Mr Angel's plane 33 years later. It was repaired and can now be seen parked outside an airport in Venezuela.

The Falls are in a protected area called the Canaima National Park. This area was made a World Heritage Site in 1994. These are sites that UNESCO, a part of the United Nations (UN), believes should be looked after and preserved. The park covers 30,000 square kilometres (11,583 square miles) of land.

President Chávez often makes anti-American speeches. He accuses the government of the USA of interfering in Venezuela and in other countries in South America.

President Chávez believes it's wrong for the waterfall to be named after Mr Angel. He says Mr Angel wasn't the first person to discover the Falls. He just happened to be the first person to fly over them in a plane.

Local indigenous people already knew about the Falls. President Chávez says they had their own name for the Falls long before they were seen by Mr Angel. In the language of the local indigenous people the Falls are called Kerepakupai merú. It means 'waterfall of the deepest place'.

Some people disagree with President Chávez. They think Angel Falls should keep its name, or be known by both names. Although Mr Angel did not 'discover' the Falls, they argue, he made them known to people in countries other than Venezuela. Now many foreign tourists visiting Venezuela travel to the Canaima National Park to see the Falls.

President Chávez has said Angel Falls will not be officially renamed.

However, he declared that people who support him and his political party should start calling them Kerepakupai merú. ▣

## VENOMOUS DINOSAUR

Scientists in the USA have reported a new dinosaur discovery. They say a 125-million-year-old dinosaur may have killed its prey with the help of venom.



Artist's impression of a sinornithosaurus

The dinosaur is named *sinornithosaurus*. Its fossil was first discovered in China around ten years ago. 'Sino' refers to China. 'Ornitho' means related to birds. When it was discovered, the fossils showed evidence that the creature – about the size of a large bird such as a turkey – had feathers. Palaeontologists – scientists who study dinosaurs – think this dinosaur was able to fly.

Palaeontologists recently noticed an unusual groove, or channel, on some fossilised teeth from the *sinornithosaurus*. They decided to investigate why the groove might be there. They realised it looked similar to the teeth of some modern-day snakes – ones whose venomous fangs, or sharp teeth, are at the backs of their mouths. These snakes don't inject venom into prey with their fangs. Instead, once the snake has bitten its

prey, venom slides down the groove in the fang into the wound.

After examining the skulls of *sinornithosaurus* fossils, the palaeontologists saw the skull bones had a small pocket. They think this could have been the place where the venom was stored. It would then have been ready to drip down the grooved tooth once the dinosaur had bitten its prey.

The palaeontologists think the dinosaur's venom probably wasn't designed to kill its prey. Instead, they believe it worked to weaken or paralyse the animal so the dinosaur could eat it. One scientist said the dinosaur might even have attacked its prey from behind, perhaps by leaping down from a tree branch. The palaeontologists suspect the *sinornithosaurus* preyed on smaller dinosaurs and birds.

The palaeontologists say they are now very interested in discovering how far back in prehistory venomous creatures existed. They believe the *sinornithosaurus* is the oldest-known example so far. ■

## NEWSCAST

**SNOW JOKE** — After a huge snowfall in Washington DC, the capital of the USA, a group of people decided to start a snowball fight. Some snowballs were thrown at a man's car. The man got out of the car and took out a gun. He then started shouting at the people throwing snowballs at him. Someone called the police. Others told the man it was only a snowball fight and it was wrong to pull out a gun. When the police arrived, they discovered the man with the gun was another police officer. He admitted taking out the gun because he was angry about being hit by snowballs.

## HOMELESS PRINCE

In December a member of the British royal family spent a night sleeping on a street in London, the capital of the UK. He decided to do this to make others realise how many people in the UK have nowhere to live, and to help a charity that works to support them.



Prince William

Prince William, aged 27, is the second in line to the British throne. His father, Prince Charles, is first in line. Prince William is expected to become the king of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth in the future. He is the grandson of Queen Elizabeth the Second.

The prince spent the night of 15th December sleeping under a bridge. Yet the news was kept secret for a week. People did not know what he had done until 22nd December.

Most members of the British royal family work to help and support different charities. If a charity is assisted by a member of the royal family it can make a big difference. As the royal family is well-known, its members can draw attention to a charity's work and encourage people to donate money.

Prince William wanted to help a charity called Centrepont. This organisation works to help young people who have no home or may soon not have one. The charity says there are many reasons why young people become homeless. These

include a lack of money, being forced out of their homes by their families, or because they think it is unsafe for them to stay at home.

Centrepont says providing somewhere for homeless people to live is only part of the work it does. It tries to help people before they become homeless. Centrepont also helps to teach people about the importance of health and managing money. It says education is especially important as it can help people overcome homelessness and have some choices for their future lives.

Prince William slept in a sleeping bag on top of old cardboard boxes. The night he chose to be 'homeless' was very cold. The following day he said after being homeless for one night he could not imagine what it must be like to sleep outside for a week or even much longer.

He said his night on the street helped him to understand the problems that homeless people have. The following morning Prince William went to a shelter that provides beds and food for homeless people. He helped to cook breakfast for the people staying there.

Prince William said he and his younger brother Harry are very lucky to have grown up within a loving and supportive family that had always looked after them. This included the advantages of a good education and healthcare. ■

## SPAMMER FINED

A man has been fined by organisations in the USA and Australia for sending spam emails. On 22nd December an Australian court ruled the man had to pay a fine of A\$210,000 (£116,380). He has also been banned

## NewsCAST

**BIRDS DON'T ROCK** — A rock concert due to take place in Austria in May might have to be cancelled. An animal rights organisation says a colony of rare birds, called curlews, lives near to where the concert is planned to be held. The organisation says the bird colony will be in danger from the loud music and must not be disturbed. The group is reported to have said it may have to take legal action against the concert organisers if the show goes ahead. All the tickets for the concert have already sold out.



from sending any advertising emails for seven years.

Spam is the word used for unwanted email messages. These messages are also known as junk email. Spam usually refers to identical emails an organisation sends to many thousands – or even millions – of email addresses at the same time. Most spam messages advertise something – sometimes a fake product. Now many email providers and computers have spam filters designed to block junk emails.

People who send spam email messages are often called spammers. Email addresses can be collected in different ways. For example, programs can be written that search websites for email addresses. Spammers also use computer viruses to send out their junk email. If you accidentally open a spam email attachment that contains a virus, it could even send spam email to all the contacts in your address book. Often spammers will sell long lists of the email addresses they use to other spammers.

Lance Atkinson is the man who has been fined. He runs an organisation

that has a large network of computers. This network searches for email addresses and sends out millions of junk emails every day. His organisation is thought to send about 30% of all the junk mail in the world.

The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) is an organisation that keeps a check on things that happen in the [media](#). It decides what media companies are allowed to do. In Australia companies have to follow very strict rules about any advertising emails they send. People can report spammers to the ACMA. The Australian court was told by the ACMA that it had received 100,000 complaints about emails sent by Mr Atkinson's organisation.

Mr Atkinson is from New Zealand but lives in Australia. His spam emails are sent to people in many countries, including the USA. However, the Australian court can only stop him from sending spam to people in Australia. This is because an Australian court can only enforce rules in Australia.

The American organisation that fined Mr Atkinson is similar to the ACMA. It ordered him to pay a fine of US\$16 million (£10 million). Yet most people think it is unlikely Mr Atkinson will pay. This is because the American organisation would only be able to force Mr Atkinson to pay the fine if he moved to, or visited, the USA. ■

## UNDERWATER ERUPTION

Scientists have recently released a video recording of something that's never been filmed before – the world's deepest known underwater volcano erupting.

Volcanoes happen because of the movement of the Earth's tectonic plates. The outer surface of the Earth is made of huge solid plates, but they lie on top of a layer of hot liquid rock called magma. In some places the magma can burst up through spaces where the plates meet. When it erupts it is known as lava. But volcanoes do not always erupt lava. They can also erupt gasses and ash from deep underground, forcing them high into the atmosphere.



*West Mata undersea volcano*

Some volcanoes erupt above ground, but many are deep under the sea. The underwater volcano the scientists filmed is called the West Mata volcano. It is under the South Pacific Ocean near the island of Samoa. Marine scientists believe it's the world's deepest volcano. Its top, or summit, is more than one kilometre (0.62 miles) below the ocean surface.

Volcano eruptions can be violent, spraying lava and ash high into the air. It is very dangerous to be close to an erupting volcano. But, say the marine scientists, they were able to send a camera much closer to the West Mata volcano than they could to any above-ground one. This is because the water pressure at that depth in the ocean slows down the speed of the eruption. The camera was able to come within just a few metres of where the lava was coming out of the volcano.



The water at this depth is also cold – about 4°C (39°F). This meant the lava cooled down very suddenly after it had erupted. The scientists filmed the lava being cooled back into chunks of rock that then sank down the sides of the volcano. Some broke into even smaller pieces of rock that floated in the water.

The video was taken by a small unmanned submarine that carried several cameras. Both the cameras and the submarine were operated by remote control. The submarine also picked up samples of rock and liquid from around the volcano. The gasses erupting, say the marine scientists, make the surrounding water very acidic. This means only a few types of sea creatures can live in the ocean nearby.

The scientists say the video and samples will help them understand more about how the Earth's crust was formed, and how it is 'recycled' by volcanoes. ■

## WINTER AFFECTS EURO TRAINS

On December 18th very cold weather in the UK and France caused problems for travellers. Five trains going through the Channel Tunnel broke down. Some passengers were forced to spend many hours trapped inside trains that became stuck in the tunnel.

The Channel Tunnel is 50.5 kilometres (31.4 miles) long. It connects the UK and France. The tunnel was opened in 1994. Millions of passengers travel through it on trains every year. Passenger trains travel to and from London, the capital of the UK; Paris, the capital of France; and Brussels, the capital of Belgium.

The company that runs the passenger trains is called Eurostar. The

company that owns the tunnel is called Eurotunnel. Eurotunnel also operates some trains. These carry cars, trucks, and the drivers and passengers travelling in them. Other freight trains run by different companies also use the tunnel.



More than 2,000 passengers were travelling on the Eurostar trains that broke down. Eurotunnel says it towed three of the broken-down trains out of the tunnel. Two trains had to be left behind. Eventually passengers from these trains had to be evacuated.

The passengers who had to be evacuated were angry. They said they had not been given instructions or information about what to do when the trains broke down. They complained there was no lighting in the trains, the toilets stopped working, and Eurostar workers did not hand out any food or water.

Eurostar officials said the problems happened because the temperature was so cold on the French side of the tunnel. Snow got into parts of the engines. When the trains entered the tunnel, the air temperature was much warmer than it was outside. Condensation then formed within some of the electrical systems. This stopped the trains' engines from working.

All travel through the tunnel was completely shut down for three days. Engineers worked to find a

solution. A few trains began running again on 21st December. Yet many thousands of passengers who had bought tickets to travel were stuck in the stations, as they waited for the trains to begin running again.

Eurostar eventually announced all its train services would not start running normally until 26th December. An argument broke out between Eurostar and Eurotunnel.

Eurotunnel accused Eurostar of making the problems worse. It said Eurostar didn't tell the passengers in the broken-down trains what was happening. Then, says Eurotunnel, when the passengers were finally able to leave the trains they were allowed to take their bags with them. Eurotunnel insists this is against the safety rules. It said passengers carrying bags take longer to be evacuated, so the delays were even worse for the last passengers taken out of the tunnel.

An investigation will now be carried out to find out what caused the problems and what mistakes were made. Eurostar says Eurotunnel should wait to find out the results of this investigation and not blame Eurostar for all the problems. ■

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**Editor:** Amber Thody

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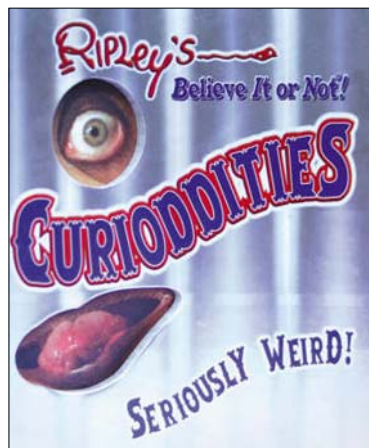
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## B O O K R E V I E W

### HAVE YOU READ ...?



Here's a wild and weird book that might sometimes make you cringe but is always incredible! It's filled with stories and photographs heavy with shock value and amazement. In some ways it's like the *Guinness Book of World Records* – but I found the things in this book a lot more shocking and surprising.

This is a small but heavy, lavishly colourful book of some amazingly bizarre, funny and freaky stories. It begins with the story of Robert Ripley himself, who created a 'Believe It Or Not' section in a newspaper over 90 years ago. Mr Ripley worked for a newspaper, called the New York Globe, as a sport editor. He collected together very odd facts and feats to make the 'Believe It Or Not' column. Back then, it was illustrated in a comic-book style.

Mr. Ripley also hosted a radio show, once even talking from underwater in the bottom of a shark tank in Florida! He travelled around the world searching out bizarre stories. His Believe It Or Not section was used in newspapers worldwide, and translated into 17 different languages. There are now 27 Ripley's museums in nine countries, showing off some of his strange discoveries.

Most of the book isn't a story though – instead its chapters group together similar remarkable feats, bits of science, inventions, history and prehistory. For example, it shows the tiny dinosaur fossil of a carnivorous baby *scipionix*, with remnants of its liver, intestines and muscles visible within. I especially enjoyed reading about the inventions, such as a rear wheel designed for a three-legged tortoise so she could get around the zoo more easily.

There are also sections telling about the mysterious Shroud of Turin which, the book says, cannot be carbon-dated properly; the petrified remains of the people of Pompeii who were showered with ash from Mount Vesuvius in Italy; famous UFO sightings; and a man who had his body tattooed so he could resemble a lizard. He even ate live grubs in front of audiences! Each item is explained in a short, easily-readable section, so

it's a good book for dipping into over and over again rather than reading all at once.

I found the 'Miraculous Survival' chapter the most gruesome. It describes accidents in which people survived being impaled or injured in various horrible ways. Some of the images here are not photos of the real people, but are sculptures from the Ripley museums built to illustrate these accidents. One of the most shocking shows a 28-year-old plantation worker in New Orleans, in the USA, who was impaled on a wooden stake that just narrowly missed his heart and damaged one lung. He survived. One of the creepiest tells of a Chinese man bitten by a snake that was supposed to be dead (it was preserved in a bottle of alcohol)! Stories such as this are brief, but the effects of the pictures may stay with you longer.

There are a few (a VERY few) things in here you could even try out for yourself. Perhaps you could build your own King Kong sculpture out of popcorn, like the students at London's Camberwell College of Arts did. Their sculpture was 4 metres (13 feet) tall and weighed 800 kilograms (1,720 pounds) – as heavy as four real gorillas – so you might want to think on a smaller scale. Also, you could see if you can write like Dorothy Nusbäum of Washington, in the USA, who could write sentences with both hands at the same time – one writing forwards and one backwards.

As well as the nine densely-packed chapters, there is an index for specific wonders. A word of warning: this book contains some things that might be startling for very young readers to handle (the 'human pincushion', for example). I'd recommend it for readers aged 12 and up.

*Ripley's Believe It Or Not! Curioddities, Seriously Weird.* 2007. Ripley Publishing, a Jim Pattison Company

Reviewed by **Craig Purdon**

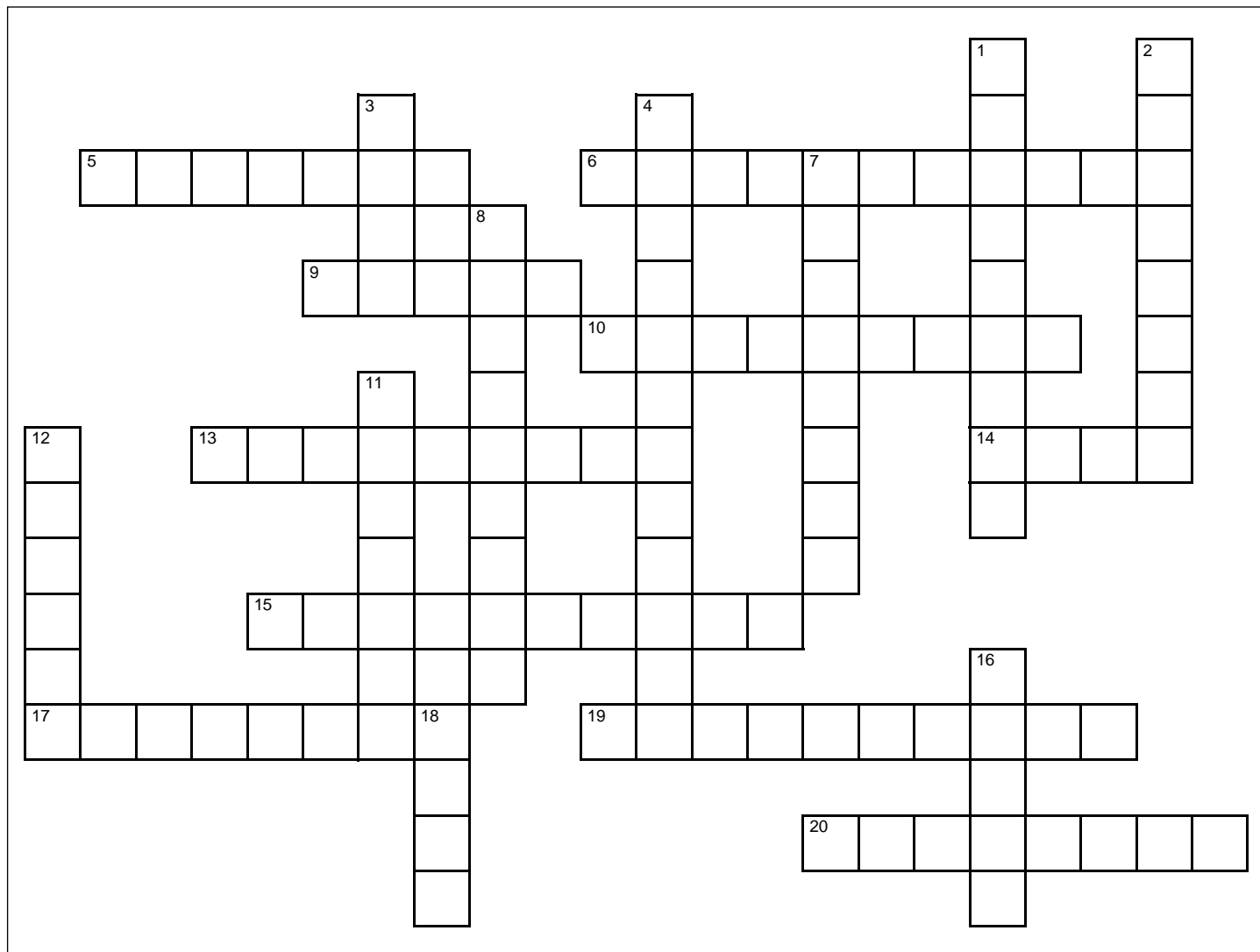
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# GLOSSARY

## PRIZE COMPETITION

**INSTRUCTIONS:** ① Complete the crossword. The answers are highlighted in orange in the news stories. There are 25 words highlighted and you need 20 of them to complete the crossword. ② Once you have solved the crossword find the 20 words in the word search on the next page ➡



### Across

- 5 Noun** An aircraft pilot  
**6 Noun (Plural)** Things you own or are carrying  
**9 Noun** Newspapers, magazines, radio broadcasts, television shows and the internet considered as a group  
**10 Noun (Plural)** Robes worn by priests  
**13 Noun (Plural)** The lower parts of rivers where they reach the sea and the tide flows in and out  
**14 Noun** An official permit that allows a person to enter or leave a country  
**15 Noun** A line of people or vehicles all moving forward at the same speed, often as part of a religious ceremony  
**17 Verb** Raised or lifted  
**19 Adjective** Originating in a particular country  
**20 Adjective** Accurate or careful

### Down

- 1 Adjective** Describes something very simple, from the time of very early civilisation  
**2 Noun** A large church or cathedral with two rows of columns that support the roof  
**3 Adjective** The only one or single  
**4 Noun** Water vapour from the air which forms as liquid droplets, usually on a cold surface  
**7 Noun (Plural)** Simple substances that cannot be reduced to smaller chemical parts  
**8 Verb** Set free or released  
**11 Noun** An end result or effect of something  
**12 Noun** The part of an animal's face that includes its nose and mouth  
**16 Verb** To feel sadness at the death of someone  
**18 Adjective** Describes something that has two uses or features



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